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City Website Becomes Functional Tool

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(May 27, 2004- TROY)- Mayor Harry Tutunjian said Thursday he was proud to announce that the City's website has become a useful tool, and moved past the outdated bulletin board it languished as for years. Now, www.troyny.gov is the place to go for information on Troy.

While stressing that more work needs to be done, and will be undertaken in the coming months, Tutunjian noted numerous changes have made the website a place to visit when it comes to needing information about Troy.

Among the significant changes that have taken place include:

■ A listing of offenders in the City of Troy that have registered on the New York State Sex Offender Registry. The listing includes names, pictures, crime committed, and in the case of level 3 sex offenders, addresses. The website also includes links to other sex offenders in the area.

"Every community in the area has sexual offenders living in it, Troy is no different," Tutunjian said. "However, we are taking things to the next level in an effort to protect the residents of Troy. Having the sex offender registry listed directly on the website is an advantage to residents looking to protect themselves and their children."

A listing of neighborhoods in the City has also been added to the website. Included is a map showing nine separate areas of the City, all fire stations and police stations, links to the school districts, council districts, libraries and CDTA. There are also eight written descriptions by neighborhood leaders concerning certain sections on the City. By the end of the summer, that number will more than double to 18 descriptions.

"Each day we have new people looking to move into the City of Troy," Tutunjian said. "Listing our neighborhoods, and offering up a tool for people to learn about our great treasures should serve as a sincere welcome that we want to see an influx of new people. This section of the site will serve new and old residents alike."

■ Weekly messages by Mayor Tutunjian are now a staple of the website. Each Thursday afternoon Tutunjian addresses one of the ongoing topics in the City. Topics for the first 15 columns have included Troy residents serving in Iraq, rezoning, Frear Park Golf Course, and updates about what is going on in the coming week. Tutunjian said he has been surprised be the feedback he has received from the column.

"Last week, we had a woman ask if we could archive the columns so she could read them all," Tutunjian said. "I could only help but laugh. Another time I offered up free snowbrushes to the first 200 people who saw the column, and I still have 197 of them in my office. All in all, I have had people they tell me they read it each week, and enjoy it. As long as that is the case, I am happy to keep the columns coming."

The website also includes a series of links to City services, up-to-date information on the South Troy and Hoosick Street rezoning, several calendars of events focusing on public meetings and special events, and links to the entire Capital District.

Tutunjian said he made it a priority when taking office to improve the City's website. In the past few years there has been much discussion about how Troy would take its place in the future in New York's Tech Valley, but the City did not even have a viable website.

"We have some groups who are focused on Troy in the future, and how it will look, and how we will get there," Tutunjian said. "But meanwhile, we had a website that was completely ineffective, had no up-to-date information, and consisted of old phone numbers and useless links. We still have work to do, but I no longer doubt that our website is one of the best in the entire area. Hopefully one day we will have on of the finest in the country."

For more information about the website, visit www.troyny.org.